

APRIL 2009



GOATS ACROSS CANADA



Medicine Creek Ranch
Hiking the White Cloud Mountains-
with Pack Goats
Baby Girl
Spring health problem!

The All Breed Monthly Magazine Serving the Goat Industry

VOLUME 2

ISSUE 4

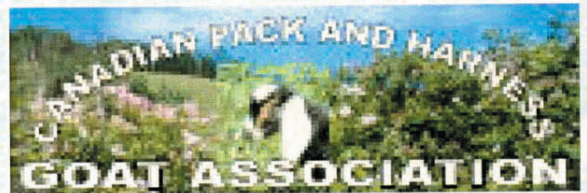
Front Cover

LOVE YOUR DREAM



NAPgA

Mission Statement: The NAPgA Inc. is an organization established specifically for promoting packing with Pack Goats. For more information or membership Contact Larry Robinson
13 Norwood Place
Boise, ID 83716
lrobinson@hisurfer.net



FOR FREE PAMPHLET CONTACT:

Summer Waters Farm, Box 495, McBride, B.C.
250-569-4029 email: keyv_nivek@hotmail.com
OR Rebecca Lange, Brambles Nubian Goat Farm,
San Clara, MB, 204-937-8349,
www.goatpackgetaways.com

Back Cover

I'm Retired!

by *Larry Robinson*

Living My Dream

Hiking the White Cloud Mountains



I retired from active duty (ie., the workforce), in October of 2006. It had been my plan for many years to celebrate this event by hiking the White Cloud Mountains in Idaho. Because they are somewhat inaccessible without spending more than a weekend 'getting there' I had, to this point, only poked around the edges of these beautiful mountains. So what better way to note the end of my active working career, than to spend a lot of time in this place that I had wanted to see for such a long time.

So, it was in stone. I would retire September 1st of 2006, and immediately transition from the work force, to

the hiking force. Uh, huh. In line with one of my favorite sayings; "Life is what happens when you are making other plans", it was not to be. The State of Idaho, instead of actively searching for my replacement, waited 'til the last minute, then said, 'wow, we gotta get this thing going!' Right. The aggregate result of their foot-shuffling, was that they didn't actually have my replacement on board until mid-August. He took one look at all that I was doing, which covered the entire State of Idaho, and said, "Uh, I need *waaaay more time than this* to get trained!" My response? *Duh!... and so you do!* For me, that meant hanging around the DOT until the beginning of October. Hiking several days into the wilderness in

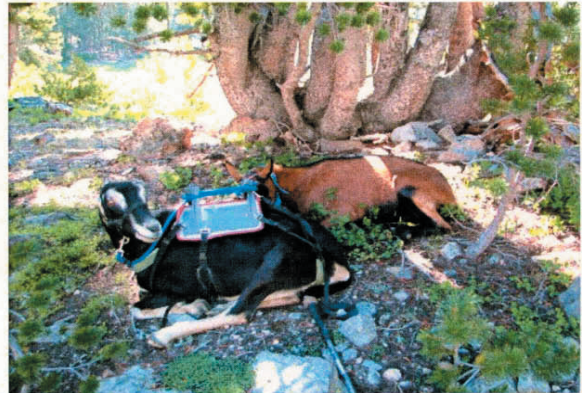


Idaho in October is only for those that are *not* faint of heart. Since *I am* faint of heart, no hike *this* year, at least.

Since I now consequently had more time for in-depth examination of this adventure, and since I had several goats that were coming up on the age when they could actually be useful, I decided to wait for a couple of years until they could explore this area with me (like, I'm sure that is what they always wanted to do!).



So it was that I set out in August of 2008 to do the long awaited; "I'm retired! Lets go Hiking", adventure in the White Clouds. My normal hiking partner, a 73-year-old lady, was my only companion for this jaunt... and 4 of my goats, naturally. On the second day, we would be following a route that was labeled 'hiker's trail', noted by Margaret Fuller, the writer of the definitive hiking book on the Sawtooths/White Cloud Mountains. After overnight at Born Lakes, we set off on the 'hiker's trail' over the 10,200' pass into the heart of the White Clouds. Well, a 'hiker's trail' it was. I didn't have a real big struggle with it, but my hiking partner, who definitely prefers slightly less-challenging routes, ended up on all 4's before summiting the pass. The goats, incidentally, looked back at her and commented, "So what's the big deal?" They're like that. No grace!



Most of the rest of the hike was 'on trail' and pretty much textbook, but with several notable exceptions. The First of which was that Sassy-Brown, my on-the-small-side Oberhasli, gave it up about 3 days in, and didn't carry anything for the rest of the 10-day hike. The Second, was that for a number of reasons, we didn't

get to see most of the lakes in the Big Boulder Basin. Since there are 12-14 lakes in this basin, that was a real disappointment. It will undoubtedly have to happen in another year.

The Third 'exception' was that on our way down to the lower end of the White Clouds, and the





map! Must be a glitch! So I turned it off, climbed up much higher so I could get a real, clear view of the sky, and tried again. "Well, this stupid electronic gizmo still says the same thing! Dang, I spent \$400 for nothing!" It took a lot of thinking, and even more looking at the Topo, before the thunderclap of realization finally hit. And that was, that we had hiked for 4.5 miles in the opposite direction from where we needed to go! The worst part of this was that I had to tell trusty hiking partner, that in the morning, we had to retrace our steps, 4.5 miles and 2500 feet up, and *only then* start on the way to Washington lake.

Amazingly, since she can get really testy at times, she took all of this quite well. I *DID NOT* ask the goats how they felt!



Chamberlain basin, we elected to pass up Baker Lake (where we definitely should have camped!) and by the time we go to the Chamberlain basin (which, in that end of the White Clouds, was the only place with water on that route after Baker Lake), it was a 13-mile day. Tired? *Ya gotta ask?*

The Fourth, and final 'exception', after exploring the Chamberlain Basin all day, we set off for Washington Lake. In typical male fashion, I gave a cursory look at the map, and at which would have been the last opportunity to avoid what was a *very big* mistake, I didn't even look at the signpost early on in this section (after all, I don't need no stinking trail signs... *right?*). We hiked on, blissfully ignorant, about 4.5 miles, and 2500 feet down. We came to a nice stream, and it was time to set up camp, so we did. At some point, after dinner, I got out the trusty GPS, and took a reading. "Well, what is wrong with this thing! It says we're clear off the

The next morning, we set out to get back to Point "A", and after eating lunch began to hike in the direction we should have in the first place. The trailhead appeared, right where it was supposed to be, around 5 PM, and we set about returning home and bringing an end to this overall wonderful adventure. My main discovery this year, aside from the discovery that I was potentially quite fallible (a revelation?), was that I absolutely loved being out for long periods like the 10 days we spent on this one. I am hoping next year to do a 10-14 day excursion each of the three summer months, July, August & September of 2009.

Since we only have about 3 months here to get our hiking in, one has to go like mad during that time. The goats not only make it possible, but they are great hiking companions besides. You never have to worry about them whining about having to be on 'all 4's'... since they always are!



Larry in Idaho City
www.boiselarry.com
email: lrobinson@hisurfer.net
See Larry's first article "How Not to Begin with Pack Goats" in the February 2009 issue.

